

1 **Claims**

2 A method for sampling a fluid produced from a
3 wellbore, the method comprising providing a vehicle
4 having a drive means for moving the vehicle, a
5 collecting device for collecting a sample of fluid and
6 a storage facility for the collected fluid; using the
7 collecting device to recover a sample of the fluid to
8 the vehicle's storage facility at a first location on a
9 subsea structure; storing the sample in the storage
10 facility of the vehicle; and carrying the sample in the
11 vehicle's storage facility to a second location.

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14 2 A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first
15 location is a wellhead

17 3 A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first
18 position typically has a collection port to mate with
19 the collecting device, and the method includes the step
20 of engaging the collecting device with the collection
21 port at the first location, and transferring the fluid
22 through the collection port and collecting device while
23 they are engaged.

25 4 A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the
26 vehicle is a remotely operated vehicle.

28 5 A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the storage
29 tank and collecting device are housed on a frame
30 attached to the vehicle.

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6 A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the collecting device comprises at least one sample container for containing the sample collected, and the method includes the further step of storing the sample collected in the sample container.

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7 A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the vehicle has a probe for connecting to the subsea structure at the first position and the method includes the step of connecting the vehicle to the subsea structure via the probe and collecting the sample through the probe.

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14 8 A method as claimed in claim 1 including the step of discarding a portion of the fluid collected.

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17 9 A method as claimed in claim 1 including the step of detaching the vehicle from the subsea structure at the first position, removing the sample when the vehicle has moved to the second position, and analysing the sample at the second position.

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23 10 A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the collecting device has several separate sample containers for collecting samples, and the method includes the step of collecting a further sample from at least one other subsea structure before the vehicle moves to the second location for analysis of the samples.

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31 11 A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the device can be controlled from a position remote from the first

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~~position, and the method includes the step of controlling the device remotely.~~

4 12 A sampling device for collecting samples of fluid
5 produced from a subsea wellbore, the sampling device
6 having a drive means for moving the sampling device, a
7 collecting device for collecting a sample of fluid and
8 a storage container for holding the collected fluid.

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10 13 A sampling device as claimed in claim 12, wherein
11 the wellbore has a wellhead and the collecting device
12 comprises a probe for engaging a port on the wellhead.

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14 14 A sampling device as claimed in claim 12 wherein
15 the drive means comprises a remotely operated vehicle.

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17 15 A sampling device as claimed in claim 12, wherein
18 the storage container comprises at least one bottle,
19 the said at least one bottle having a having a piston
20 movable within the bottle.

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16 A sampling device as claimed in claim 12, having
means to indicate characteristics of the sample
collected, the characteristics being selected from the
group consisting of pressure, volume and temperature.

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27 17 A sampling device as claimed in claim 12, wherein
28 the device is adapted to collect the fluid sample from
29 a subsea fluid-carrying structure selected from the
30 group consisting of wellheads, manifolds, pipelines,
31 wellbores, casings, tubulars, storage tanks and gravity
32 base structures.

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18. A sampling device as claimed in claim 16, wherein
the indicator means is configured to indicate the
selected characteristics on a continuous basis.
19. A sampling device as claimed in claim 12, wherein
the storage container has a fail safe valve to seal the
container in the event of a power failure.

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